Violation of Procedures in IPCL Distributorship

3971. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Petrochemical Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) offered distributorship for polymers, without following prescribed procedures during the last two years; and

(b) the action proposed to enquire into the matter through the Vigilance Commissioner or the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) had issued an advertisement in January, 2001 for appointment of Consignment agents at different locations in the country. In view of the process of disinvestment of Government's equity in IPCL alongwith transfer of control of management and market dynamics, IPCL decided no to appoint any new Consignment agents. However, considering the competitive business environment and the requirements of the company, it was decided to allow the three existing chemical distributors with proven capacility, at Ahmedabad, Delhi and Mumbai to deal in Polymer products also initially for a period of one year subject to review. This decision was taken after following the appropriate procedure.

(b) Does not arise.

Product Patent Regime for Pharmaceuticals

3972. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lobby of Indian pharmaceutical industry has sought extension of WTO deadline to implement product patent regime in India;

(b) whether an option to extend the deadline was given at the Doha meet of the WTO to Least Developed Countries, whose health infrastructure and income could not bear the burden of expensive patented medicines; and

(c) whether India's per capita health spending in comparable with other Least Developed countries and if so, whether Government would consider extending the WTO deadline till 2016, to implement the provisions of the TRIPS agreement?